

A Junior Achiever

Laura Koster, part-timer at Kresge 246, Grand Rapids, Michigan, always seems to find time for numerous Junior Achievement activities, which have won her awards, trips and scholarships.

A senior at Catholic Central High School, Laura is running for re-election for her present position of Vice President Marketing of her Junior Achievement company and is even thinking of running for president.

"One of my advisors thinks that I should run for president," Laura says. "It is a creative position as opposed to vice president of marketing, which is all books and record keeping."

Laura's company is called Cookie Sheets Plus. Their product is an aluminum cookie sheet produced by the students.

"We sell thousands of them," Laura says. "You would think that everyone has bought one by now, but I guess not. We make them ourselves. We buy aluminum blanks, have three presses to bend the sides, file them down and package them. Our regular J.A. meetings last about two hours once a week and for one and one half hours of that time we make 250 cookie sheets."

The cookie sheets sell for \$2.50.

Cookie Sheets Plus ranked third in total sales out of the 48 small-scale J.A. companies in Grand Rapids in the 1982-83 program year. Their sales were over \$7,800.

Laura generated \$500 in sales through door-to-door selling.

In the local J.A. competition, Laura was a finalist for her office and received a full scholarship for a Dale Carnegie course in human relations and public speaking.

"It was a 14-week course and very interesting," Laura says. "They give out methods on how to remember names and points on public speaking. Now I can speak in front of a group and not get nervous."

Where does one person find the time and motivation to achieve so many things before they are even out of high school?

"I guess I am motivated by self-interest. I get a lot of enjoyment out of progress," Laura explains.

"As far as time goes, everything just seems to fall into place. I have the meeting once a week and for my door-to-door sales, I go out for a half hour to an hour a day."

Laura was also awarded the Outstanding Achiever Award this year where one person from each company is chosen for a grand prize of a three day vacation to Mackinac Island, Michigan. It is an all expenses paid trip. This is Laura's second year for that award.

In August, Laura will go on as a delegate to the National Junior Achievers Conference held at Indiana University to participate in contests, product fairs, public speaking workshops, learn about other J.A. companies and many other activities. Each delegate brings back their new-found ideas and shares them with their J.A. company.

After Laura graduates from high school, she hopes to go into computer science.



Del Deleplanque, K mart 3298, Boise, Idaho, with his Chevy pickup and his license plate that was made in honor of K mart's service center logo—K Care.

Matching Plates and Cars for Service Center Manager

Cars and license plates. That's what E.F. (Del) Deleplanque, service manager, K mart 3298, Boise, Idaho, likes to collect.

"I'm a car nut," Del says. "I've been collecting cars ever since I was out of high school. I have six right now."

Six cars between his wife and himself and Del swears that he drives each one almost every day!

"I've got a 1923 Ford Roadster. It's a little car I built in 1970. I use it for pre-1948 shows and drive it, too. It's a homemade job. The body was a kit but everything else is a 1923 Ford."

He gets over 30 miles to the gallon, since the car weighs only 2,000 pounds.

"There's going to be an auto show in Boise in November, which I'll be in. You get 200 to 300 cars out there and get to see what people can do with them. It's a lot of fun."

The license plate on his Ford reads "Mini T." The trailer that Del uses to haul his Ford has plates

with "T Hauler" embossed on them. Del likes to drive his 1974 Chevy "low ride" pickup to work since it sports plates reading "K Care". "I got into license plates when I was in Montana. They came out with personalized plates. I got one and just kept collecting from there."

Since Del's 1962 Firebird is a rare and unique commodity these days, it goes without explanation that his plates read "Unique".

"That was the first year that they made Firebirds. The '62's that are in good shape are very scarce. So naturally we put "Unique" on the plates. Right now we're getting ready to totally restore the car with a new paint job. Del also has a 1966 Volkswagen Bug.

Although maintaining and restoring his cars takes up most of Del's free time, he also loves to fish.

"Fishing is also my hobby, whenever I get a chance to do it. But I spend most of my time working on my cars, which keeps me pretty busy."